

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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P R 231458Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2140

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 4 VIENNA 2593

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20,
1974

SUMMARY: THE AD HOC GROUP MEETING OF 20 MARCH 1974,

CHAired BY UK REP (ROSE) DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING:

A) A BILATERAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN US REP AND
COL KAPITONOV OVER THE ALLEGED INCREASE OF NATO
AIR MANPOWER AND THE ADVISABILITY OF STARTING A
DISCUSSION ON EXCHANGING DATA WITH AN ATTEMPT T
DEFINE TERMS;

B. A BILATERAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN GREEK REP

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(DOUNTAS) AND HUNGARIAN COL VADASZI CONCERNING

NUCLEAR WEAPONS REDUCTIONS AND FLANK SECURITY.

C. A STATEMENT FY FRG REP ON BEHALF OF THE DELEGATION, AT THE OPENING OF THE HOFBURG PLENARY, WHICH VOICED THEIR APPRECIATION TO THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT FOR MAKING THE HOFBURG AVAILABLE TO MBFR NEGOTIATIONS.

D. DESIGNATION OF US, FRG AND CANADIAN REPS AS WESTERN REPS TO THE SEVENTH INFORMAL MEETING.

E. APPROVED DRAFT TALKING POINTS FOR SEVENTH INFORMAL SESSION WHICH COVERED THE SUBJECT OF US-SOVIET REDUCTIONS, STABILIZING MEASURES, SYMBOLIC REDUCTIONS AND CONCLUDING REMARKS.

F. APPROVED DRAFT PLENARY STATEMENT TO BE GIVEN BY REP AT 21 MARCH PLENARY ON US-SOVIET FIRST PHASE REDUCTIONS.

G. APPROVED AHG GROUP WEEKLY REPORT TO NAC.

H. DISCUSSED PRESS LEAK ON INFORMAL SESSIONS REPORTED IN UK FINANCIAL TIMES, PAPER ON 19 MAR AND DIRECTED BEL REP TO SHOW AHG DISPLEASURE CONCERNING THE LEAK TO ROMANIANS WHO WERE ITS PROBABLE SOURCE. END SUMMARY.

BILATERALS

1. THE AD HOC GROUP MEETING OF 20 MARCH UNDER THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UK REP (ROSE) OPENED WITH A REPORT ON BILATERALS.

2. US REP REPORTED A CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD WITH COL KAPITONOV OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION ON THE EVENING OF 19 MARCH DURING A SOCIAL OCCASION. US REP HAD TOLD KAPITONOV THAT ALLIES DID NOT AGREE NATO AIR MANPOWER HAD INCREASED IN 1973 BY 10,000. KAPITONOV AGREED THAT US AIR MANPOWER HAD NOT INCREASED BUT HE COULD NOT SAY THE SAME FOR THE BUNDESWEHR AIR MANPOWER. KAPITONOV SAID KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO DISUCSS THIS MATTER AT THE NEXT INFORMAL SESSION.

3. US REP SAID HE FURTHER POINTED OUT TO KAPITONOV THAT, IN VIEW OF THE SOVIET'S INABILITY TO ACCEPT THE SECRET

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STATEMENT THAT FRENCH GROUND FORCES WERE INCLUDED IN THE NATO 777,000 FIGURE IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF THE COMPOSITION OF THE 777,000 WAS AT SOME FUTURE POINT, MADE A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION, AND STATED THAT ALLIES MIGHT BE WILLING TO DO SO IF AT THE SAME TIME THE SOVIETS WOULD DISCUSS THE BREAKOUT OF PACT GROUND FORCE MANPOWER.

4. KAPITONOV STATED THAT DATA SHOULD ULTIMATELY BE EXCHANGED ON GROUND FORCES, AIR FORCES, AIRCRAFT AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ORDER THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON CEILINGS. BUT WITH RESPECT TO GROUND FORCES, THE FIRST THING TO BE DONE WAS TO BE SURE THAT THE SAME ELEMENTS OR COMPONENTS WERE COUNTED ON EACH SIDE - KAPITONOV POINTED OUT THAT THE SOVIETS INCLUDE AIR DEFENSE FORCES AS PART OF GROUND FORCES AS DOES THE US, WHEREAS THE BUNDESWEHR INCLUDES AIR DEFENSE FORCES UNDER THE AIR FORCE. THEREFORE, THIS ISSUE NEEDS TO BE DISCUSSED BEFORE DISCUSSION OF DATA AS SUCH. THE CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO STABILIZING MEASURES. IT WAS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT KAPITONOV HAD APPEARED WILLING TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED STABILIZING MEASURE ON MAJOR EXERCISES, WHICH KHLESTOV HAD SAID IT WAS AN UNACCEPTABLE TOPIC IN HIS PLENARY STATEMENT.

5. KAPITONOV HAD OBSERVED THAT THE PROPOSED DEFINITION OF A MAJOR EXERCISE WAS TOO NARROW. HE DID NOT CONSIDER A DIVISION EXERCISE TO BE A MAJOR EXERCISE, RATHER A MAJOR EXERCISE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS ONE CONDUCTED BY A CORPS. HE DESCRIBED A CORPS AS BEING THREE TO FOUR DIVISIONS PLUS SUPPORTING TROOPS HAVING A TOTAL STRENGTH OF 30 TO 40,000 PERSONNEL. KAPITONOV HAD ALSO OBSERVED THAT THE PROPOSED STABILIZING

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INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCERU
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 4 VIENNA 2593

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS FROM US REP MBFR

MEASURES ON MANEUVERS WAS TOO COMPLICATED AND THAT, AS A SIMPLE SOLDIER, HE FOUND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND ITS PROVISIONS. HE FELT THAT IF IT WAS EVER IMPLEMENTED, THAT A LARGE SPECIAL STAFF WOULD HAVE TO BE CREATED IN ORDER TO EXCHANGE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION.

6. THE FRG ACTING DEP REP (GEN STEIFF) COMMENTED THAT THE FRG WHITE BOOK DOES INDEED SHOW AN INCREASE IN LUFTWAFFE STRENGTH AND HE HAD QUERIED BONN FOR AN EXPLANATION. UK REP ROSE QUESTIONED WHETHER THE EAST IS NOW PREPARING TO TALK DATA. IF THE EAST WAS GOING TO GIVE THE WEST THE OPPORTUNITY TO AGAIN POINT OUT THE BUILD UP OF SOVIET FORCES IN THE NGA. HE POINTED THAT THE AHG SHOULD CONSIDER RESPONDING IN SECRET

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KIND TO ANY OF THEIR EAST'S ALLEGATIONS ON NATO BUILD UPS. US REP REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT THINK ALLIES HAD AN INCREASE IN AIR MANPOWER. ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSING NATO GROUND FORCE STRENGTH FIGURES WITH THE EAST IN DUE COURSE, BECAUSE IT APPEARED THAT THE EAST WANTED TO DISCUSS WHAT NATO HAD COUNTED UNDER GROUND FORCES. BUT, HE POINTED OUT, CARE MUST BE TAKEN SO THAT THE EAST DOES NOT USE THIS TO ARGUE THE GENERAL CASE FOR AIR REDUCTIONS. US REP CONTINUED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO COME UP WITH A SIMPLE FUNCTIONAL BREAKOUT OF EQUIVALENT FORCE STRUCTURE DUE TO THE DISSIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE WAY NATO AND THE PACT ORGANIZE THEIR FORCES. FOR EXAMPLE, HELICOPTERS BEING IN THE PACT AIR FORCES WHERE AS IN THE NATO THEY ARE FOUND IN THE ARMY. THEREFORE THE AHG SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTIES THIS WILL ENTAIL IN ANY DISCUSSION OF TOPIC OF FORCE COMPOSITION WITH THE SOVIETS IN AND ISOLATION FACT THAT IT COULD LEAD DIRECTLY INTO GENERAL DISCUSSION OF DESIRABILITY OF INCLUDING AIR FORCE. THE ITALIAN REP (CAGIATI) OBSERVED THAT BE THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO DISCUSS THE SOVIET

BUILDUP. US REP REPLIED THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT THIS ISSUE WOULD NOT BE USED POLEMICALLY BY OTHERS. ALL THAT WAS NECESSARY NOW WAS TO SHOW THAT THE LUFTWAFFE HAD NOT INCREASED IF THIS WERE THE FACT.

7. UK REP STATED THAT A DETAILED DISCUSSION OF DATA SHOULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN AT THIS TIME BUT IF THE EAST PRESS THEIR ALLEGATIONS AS TO A BUILDUP NATO THE WEST SHOULD THINK ABOUT POINTING OUT THE SOVIET BUILDUP IN ORDER TO SHUT THEM UP.

8. BELGIAN REP (ADDRIANSSEN) REPORTED THAT POLISH REP (STRULAK) HAD TOLD HIM THAT A FREEZE OF FORCES WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE NATO BACK IN 1967-68, BUT NOT NOW IN 1974. TO WHICH ADDRIANSSEN HAD REPLIED THAT THE FORCE LEVELS IN 67-68 WERE IN BETTER BALANCE THAN THEY ARE NOW. A FREEZE NOW WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO NATO UNLESS IT WERE AT A COMMON CEILING LEVEL.

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9. GRREK REP (DOUNTAS) REPORTED A BILATERAL THAT HE HAD WITH HUNGARIAN COL VADASZI, IN WHICH VADASZI REPEATED THE OLD EASTERN ARGUMENTS CONCERNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS REDUCTIONS AND PUBLIC OPINION. VADASZI ASKED WHY THE FLANK COUNTRIES DID NOT PRESENT THE WESTERN STATEMENT ON FLANK SECURITY INSTEAD OF THE FRG REPRESENTATIVE AT THE FEBRUARY 21 PLENARY. THE GREEK REP REPLIED BY SAYING, THAT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN AT PLENARY MEETINGS ARE THE VIEWS OF THE ENTIRE WESTERN GROUP AND IT REALLY DIDN'T MATTER WHO PRESENTED WHAT TOPIC. THE GREEK REP RECOMMENDED TO THE AHG THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD INDICATION OF WESTERN SOLIDARITY IF AFTER THE EASTER RECESS ONE OF THE FLANK COUNTRIES PRESENTED A PLENARY STATEMENT ON A NON-FLANK SUBJECT. UK REP ROSE OBSERVED THAT THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA.

HOFBURG PLENARY

10. CHAIRMAN STATED THAT AT THE FIRST PLENARY AT THE HOFBURG ON 21 MARCH, TV CREWS WOULD BE FILMING THE FIRST TEN MINUTES OF THE MEETING. UK REP SUGGESTED THAT DURING PLENARY THE CHAIRMAN, WHICH WOULD BE FRG REPRESENTATIVE, SHOULD MAKE A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF ALL THE DELEGATION WHICH VOICED THEIR APPRECIATION TO THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT FOR MAKING THE HOFBURG AVAILABLE TO THE MBFR NEGOTIATORS. GROUP AGREED. REPRESENTATIVES FOR SEVENTH INFORMAL SESSION

11. CHAIRMAN PROPOSED THAT FOR THE SEVENTH INFORMAL SESSION THAT THE WEST BE REPRESENTED BY THE US REP, FRG REP, AND THE CANADIAN REP. GROUP CONCURRED.

12. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR USE AT THE SEVENTH INFORMAL SESSION. THE FIRST SET OF TALKING POINTS WAS ON US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCES. UK REP COMMENTED THAT ALL POINTS MADE WERE FAMILIAR TO THE EAST. MANY OF THESE POINTS WILL BE MADE IN THE PLENARY STATEMENT OF 21 MARCH. THIS REPETITION WOULD BE ALL RIGHT, HE OBSERVED, BECAUSE
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IT WOULD HELP GET THE BALL ROLLING IN THE INFORMAL SESSION AND TO ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE.

13. GREEK REP STATED THAT IN THE PAST THE AHG HAD FOLLOWED THE PATTERN OF INCLUDING FLANK SECURITY WHENEVER REDUCTIONS AND STABILIZING MEASURES WERE DISCUSSED AND HE PROPOSED THAT THIS BE CONTINUED BY MAKING THE USUAL REFERENCE ON FLANK SECURITY AT THE

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INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS; FROM US REP MBFR

END OF THESE POINTS. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IT WAS PERTINENT TO REITERATE HERE ALLIED POSITION THAT ANY AGREEMENT REACHED ON REDUCTIONS WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY DIMINISH THE SECURITY OF THE FLANK COUNTRIES. TURKISH DPE REP (UNAN) SUPPORTED THE GREE GEP ON THIS SUGGESTION AND BELIEVED THAT THE EAST SHOULD BE REMINDED FROM TIME TO TIME THAT FLANK SECURITY IS IMPORTANT. THE AHG AGREED TO EMPHASIZE FLANK SECURITY AS PROPOSED BY THE GREEK REP.

14. CANADIAN REP (GRANDE) RECOMMENDED THAT THE TERM "STAGING" USED BY THE EASTERN SIDE BE USED IN THE TALKING POINT WHICH STATED THAT SOME COMMON GROUND HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN EAST AND WEST WITH RESPECT OT PHASING. THIS WAS ACCEPTABLE WITH US REP AS LONG AS THE TERM WAS "STAGING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS." BELGIAN REP OBSERVED THAT THIS TERMINOLOGY COULD
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PROVE DANGEROUS TO THE WEST. US REP REPLIED THAT SOVIETS USED SOME RUSSIAN WORD FOR PHASES AND REAL DISTINCTION BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN POSITION WAS BETWEEN STAGES. THE PHASING OF EMPLEMENTATION ANDPHASING OF NEGOTIATIONS. GROUP APPROVED THE FIRST PART ON US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCES AS AMENDED.

15. GROUP THEN TURNED TO A DISCUSSION OF THE SECOND PART OF THE TALKING POINTS WHICH ADDRESSED STABILIZING MEASURES. CANADIAN REP PROPOSED THAT A TALKING POINT BE INSERTED IN THIS PAPER WHICH REFERRED TO THE PRAVDA ARTICLE OF 13 MARCH IN WHICH THE WRITER STATED THAT THE NATO MANEUVERS CURRENTLY GOING ON HAD POISONED THE ATMOSPHERE OF DETENTE. GRANDE BELIEVED THAT IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT TO THE EAST THAT THE PURPOSE OF STABILIZING MEASURES WAS TO INSURE NORMAL MILITARY TRAINING ACTIVITY WOULD NOT IN THE FUTURE GIVE RISE TO SUCH APPREHENSION OR LEAD TO UNDESIRABLE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES. US DEP REP ADDED THAT IT SHOULD BE FURTHER POINTED OUT TO THE EAST THAT THE ARTICLE WAS ONLY BEING USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES AND THAT THE WEST WAS NOT IMPLYING THAT IT AGREED WITH THE ARTICLE. AFTER OTHER MINOR MODIFICATIONS THESE POINTS WERE APPROVED BY THE GROUP.

16. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO TALKING POINTS ON SYMBOLIC REDUCTIONS EXPRESSING THE ALLIED POSITION THAT WHILE THE ALLIES ARE NOT FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THE SYMBOLIC REDUCTIONS PROPOSAL AS A WHOLE; HOWEVER, THERE ARE ONE OR TWO POSITIVE ELEMENTS IN THE POINTS THE EASTERN DELEGATIONS HAVE MADE IN CONNECTION WITH IT. UK REP OPENED DISCUSSION ON THE STATEMENT THAT THE IDEA OF A GLOBAL CEILING ON THE FORCES OF EACH SIDE COMBINED WITH A LIMITATION ON THE ENTRY OF TROOPS FROM OUTSIDE IS ONE SUCH POSITIVE ELEMENT. THE UK REP SUGGESTED THE TERM "TROOP FROM OUTSIDE" PRECLUDED INTRODUCTION OF ALL NATIONAL FORCES INCLUDING US AND USSR. US REP SUGGESTED REVISING THE TERM USED TO "RE-ENTRY OF WITHDRAWN TROOPS."

17. ANOTHER ISSUE RELATED TO THE EASTERN PROPOSAL CALLED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS TO REDUCE FROM THE OUTSET. AT ISSUE WAS THE BEST ARGUMENT TO CONVEY THE IMPACT OF THE REDUCTIONS ON NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. THE GROUP ADOPTED LANGUAGE TO THE EFFECT THAT WHILE POSSIBLE AGREEMENT WOULD AFFECT THE
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DEPLOYMENT OF US AND USSR GROUND FORCES, AND EVEN SO ONLY A PORTION OF THESE FORCES, ACCORDING TO OUR PROPOSAL, THE SITUATION OF MOST OF THE OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WAS DIFFERENT; THEIR ENTIRE TERRITORIES LIE WITHIN THE REDUCTION AREA AND WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE TERMS OF AN AGREEMENT.

18. THERE WAS A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF THIS STATEMENT BETWEEN NETHERLANDS REP, ITALIAN REP, BELGIAN REP, FRG DEP REP, UK REP AND US REP. US REP NOTED THAT SOVIETS HAD MET WESTERN ARGUMENTS THAT WESTERN EUROPEAN REDUCTIONS NEEDED ADDITIONAL CONFIDENCE PROCEEDED BY PRIOR US-SOVIET REDUCTIONS THROUGH PRESENT "IT WON'T HURT MUCH" VERSION OF THEIR SYMBOLIC REDUCTION PROPOSAL. WE POINT ON ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SITUATION OF US AND SOVIETS AND REST OF OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AS ONE OF THE FEW REASONS THAT COULD BE PRESENTED BY THE ALLIES FOR NOT INCLUDING THE EUROPEANS IN PHASE I REDUCTION. HE NOTED THAT ALLIES OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT USE THEIR SHEER RELUCTANCE TO REDUCE WESTERN EUROPEAN FORCES AS A NEGOTIATING POINT. REPS NOTED THAT BASICALLY THE WEST HAS ONLY TWO ARGUMENTS. ONE THAT THE US AND SOVIETS SHOULD SET A GOOD EXAMPLE BY FIRST WITHDRAWING THEIR FORCES IN ORDER TO SHOW US/SOVIET SERIOUSNESS AND SINCERITY ON THIS MATTER TO THE EUROPEANS. THE SECOND ARGUMENT WAS THAT THE IMPACT OF REDUCTIONS ON THE EUROPEAN NATIONS WOULD BE MUCH GREATER THAN ON US AND SOVIETS. THESE SHOULD BE PUT FORWARD CLEARLY.

19. FRG ACTING REP OBSERVED THAT IT WAS IN THE FRG'S BEST INTEREST NOT TO GET INTO MUCH DETAIL WHEN AND WHERE TO TAKE

REDUCTIONS AT THIS TIME. THE FRG PREFERS TO HANDLE REDUCTIONS
SIMILARLY TO THE WAY THE SOVIET UNION DOES IT IN THEIR THREE
WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICTS; THAT IS TO PLACE PEOPLE IN
RESERVE. THE ITALINA REP SUGGESTED THAT ALLIES
COULD STRENGTHEN THE ARGUMENT ABOUT THE IMPACT ON THE NON-US ALLIES

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INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCERU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 4 OF 4 VIENNA 2593

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS FROM US REP MBFR

BY HIGHLIGHTING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE REQUIRE-
MENT FOR WITHDRAWAL AND DISBANDING FORCES. THE US
REP SUGGESTED THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE USED AT THIS
TIME. IT HAD BEEN BROUGHT OUT IN ONE OF THE
PREVIOUS INFORMAL MEETINGS. WE WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE
THE DISTINCTION SO THAT THE ALLIES CAN CONSIDER USING
CHANGES OF FORCE STRUCTURE FROM ACTIVE TO RESERVE
AS A REDUCTION IN THE FUTURE. FRG REP SUPPORTED
THIS POINT OF VIEW AND SUGGESTED ALLIES SHOULD NOT VOLUNTEER
THAT THERE IS A QUALITATIVE DIFFERENCE.

20. BELGIAN REP STATED THAT HE WISHED TO MAKE A POINT ON SYMBOLIC REDUCTIONS ON INSTRUCTION OF HIS AUTHORITIES. WHILE THE AHG HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE NAC TO RAISE THE PROBLEM OF THE LINKAGE BETWEEN
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REDUCTION PHASES, THE WAY THE GROUP IS NOW APPROACHING THIS ISSUE UNDER THE SYMBOLIC REDUCTION CONCEPT WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT. HE SAID THAT DISCUSSION OF THE SYMBOLIC REDUCTION PROPOSAL GIVES THE EAST THE IDEA THE WEST IS WILLING TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF ITS ARGUMENTATION. THEREFORE IF THE AHG WISHES TO DISCUSS THE TOPIC WITH THE EAST, IT SHOULD GET NATO APPROVAL TO DO SO. BECAUSE IF THE WEST GIVES THE EAST THE IDEA THAT THE WAY TO SOLVE THE LINKAGE PROBLEM IS THROUGH THE SYMBOLIC REDUCTION PROPOSAL, THIS COULD HAVE AN UNDESIRABLE IMPACT ON THE FUTURE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. FURTHERMORE, IF THE NAC GAVE THEIR APPROVAL TO APPROACH THE LINKAGE PROBLEM VIA DISCUSSION OF THE SYMBOLIC REDUCTION PROPOSAL, THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD SUGGEST THAT SINCE IT WAS CLEAR THIS PROPOSAL WOULD INVOLVE ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, FUTURE CONVERSATIONS ON THE LINKAGE PROBLEM BE CONDUCTED IN OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUPS. BELGIAN REP CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE USE OF THE TALKING POINTS ON SYMBOLIC REDUCTIONS. NETHERLANDS REP STATED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE AHG WAS VIOLATING NAC INSTRUCTIONS BECAUSE THE TALKING POINT PAPER WAS IN FACT OBJECTING TO A CONCEPT OF SYMBOLIC REDUCTIONS AND SO HE COULD NOT SEE THE PROBLEM AS PRESENTED BY THE BELGIAN REP. UK REP AGREED WITH THE OBSERVATION MADE BY THE NETHERLANDS REP THAT IT WAS OBVIOUS THE AHG WAS NOT VIOLATING NAC INSTRUCTIONS. (COMMENT: TYPICALLY CONVOLUTED BELGIAN STATEMENT MEANT, ACCORDING TO BELGIAN DEP REP, THAT BELGIUM WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER SYMBOLIC REDUCTION IDEA AS A FORM OF LINKAGE WITH A PHASE I ON ALLIED LINES IF SOVIETS REFUSED TO ACCEPT PRESENT ALLIED APPROACH.)

PLENARY 21 MARCH 1974

21. THE AD HOC GROUP NEXT ADDRESSED THE STATEMENT TO BE PRESENTED BY THE UK REP AT THE 21 MARCH PLENARY. THIS STATEMENT COVERS THE ISSUES OF COMMON GROUND BETWEEN THE EAST AND WEST PROPOSALS. THE UK REP POINTED OUT THAT THE WESTERN PROPOSAL CALLED FOR
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REDUCTIONS OF A SPECIFIC TANK ARMY IN THE GDR AND SUGGESTED THAT ALLIES IDENTIFY THAT ARMY BY NAME. US DEP REP NOTED THAT ALLIES HAD NOT IDENTIFIED IT SPECIFICALLY IN OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS AND SUGGESTED ALLIES MENTION ONE OF TWO TANK ARMIES IN GDR. FRG DEP REP STATED THAT THE TANK ARMIES DIFFER IN SIZE AND ALLIES SHOULD BE CAREFUL IN QUALIFYING WHICH ONE.

22. AT THE REQUEST OF GREEK REP SUPPORTED BY ITALIAN REP AND TURKISH REP, THE STATEMENT CONCERNING UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR ALL STATEMENT CONCERNING UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS WAS CHANGED SLIGHTLY SO THAT IT COULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS EXCLUDING FLANK COUNTRIES. A REFERENCE RELATING TO THE SPECIFIC IDENTIFICATION PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION OF GROUND FORCES TO BE WITHDRAWN UNDER THE FIRST PHASE WAS ELIMINATED AT THE REQUEST OF THE FRG REP. FRG CONSIDERED IT DESIRABLE THAT SOVIET WITHDRAWALS BE SPECIFIED IN AGREEMENT. THE REMAINDER OF THE DRAFT PLENARY STATEMENT REMAINED UNCHANGED.

OTHER TOPICS

23. THE CHAIRMAN NEXT SUGGESTED THAT THE SUBJECT FOR THE NEXT PLENARY STATEMENT BE "STABILIZING MEASURES" AND THAT IT BE PRESENTED BY THE US REP. US REP STATED THIS PAPER WOULD DEAL WITH THE MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN PROPOSED THUS FAR AND WOULD ATTEMPT TO ENTAIL TABLING SHORT MEMO ON FOUR MEASURES INTRODUCED THUS FAR TO CLAIRFY THEIR SUGGESTED TERMS. THE AHG APPROVED THIS PROPOSAL AND ASKED THE WORKING GROUP TO PROVIDE AN OUTLINE BY THE AFTERNOON ON THE 22 MARCH.

24. THE AHG REVIEWED THE DRAFT CHAIRMAN'SREPORT FOR THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND APPROVED WITH MINOR CORRECTIONS. (SEPTTEL).

25. THE CANADIAN REP NEXT INTRODUCED AN ARTICLE BY PAUL LENDVAI WHICH HAD APPEARED IN THE "FINANCIAL
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TIMES" DATE MARCH 18, TITLE: "SECRET FORCE REDUCTION TALKS." THE ARTICLE STATED THAT INFORMAL MEETINGS WERE BEING CONDUCTED BY EAST-WEST DELEGATIONS AND

CONCLUDED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THESE MEETINGS WAS TO ELIMINATE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE SMALLER "SPECIAL STATUS COUNTRIES." THE SOURCE OF THIS PARTICULAR LEAK WAS ATTRIBUTED BY THE CANADIAN REP TO THE ROMANIAN DELEGATION. THE BELGIAN REP SAID THAT AS INSTRUCTED BY THE AHG BE WAS TO BRIEF ROMANIAN REP (ANINOIU) SOME AFTERNOON ON THE CONTENTS OF THE LAST TWO FORMAL MEETINGS. HE SUGGESTED THAT HE MAKE A SPECIFIC POINT ON BEHALF OF THE ALLIES THAT FUTURE BRIEFINGS COULD BECOME DIFFICULT IF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES PERSISTED.

THE CHAIRMAN RAISED THE ISSUE OF DEALING WITH PRESS INQUIRIES ON SUBJECT. AFTER DISCUSSION, THE CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT ALLIES CONTINUE THE LINE TO THE PRESS THAT INFORMAL MEETINGS ARE GOING ON NOW AS BEFORE, THAT THEY ARE NOTHING NEW, AND THAT PARTICIPANTS ARE DISCUSSING WHOLE RANGE OF SUBJECT MATTER OF NEGOTIATIONS.

26. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT THE NETHERLANDS REP HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY A TV NETWORK FOR PURPOSES OF PERSONAL INTERVIEW ON MBFR. THE CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED, AND THIS WAS SUPPORTED BY THE AHG, THAT ALLIES DECLINE FURTHER INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS ON AUSTRIAN TV FOR THE TIME BEING AS GROUP HAD ALREADY AGREED TO FRG REP'S APPEARANCE AND THE NETHERLANDS REP WOULD BE HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO THE EASTER RECESS. THE AHG CONCURRED.

27. THE NEXT AHG MEETING WAS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 22. TRINKA

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 23 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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